

Jacob Gooding to George Washington, February 16, 1775, Letters to Washington and Accompanying Papers. Published by the Society of the Colonial Dames of America. Edited by Stanislaus Murray Hamilton.

FROM MR. JACOB GOODING.

FOUR MILE RUN ¹ feby 16) 1775

SIR/

I have thought of the affair we were talking about & should have communicated my Proposals sooner but have been very unwell for some time past if you will advance me Five Hundd. Pounds Viz £100 – when I begin the Mill £100 more when she is half done & the other £800 when fit for work & give me a Lease for 100 Acres of Land adjoyning her during my Life & the Lives of my two children I will Build a Convenient Mill both for Mercht. & Country work & Perhaps a Saw Mill & if I think Country Manufactur'd Cloth is likely to be Encourag'd will also Build a good Fulling Mill—I & my Successors shall keep the works all in repair & pay your Forty Pounds per Annum—with this Proviso that on repaying you the sum you Advance within a certain time to be agreed on the rent shall be reduc'd Six per Ct. for Each Hundd. Pounds so paid —

I am convinc'd it will cost more than the sum I have mentioned to make the Improvments I intend but think I can doe with that & what I have, if the Proposals are worth your Acceptance Please let me Know & I will wait on you for if we agree I would loose no time in Preparing for I woud willingly have her goe next fall I am Sir

Yr. most Hble Servt. JACOB GOODING

1 An entry in Washington's Ledger under "Coll. George Mercer," and dated March 12, 1775, reads: "By your moiety of the Four Mile Run Tract . . 446 – –." Washington bequeathed to George Washington Parke Custis "the tract I hold on four mile Run in the Vicinity of Alexandria containing one thousd two hundred acres more or less." A facsimile of a survey of this tract made by Washington in 1799 is printed in G. W. P. Custis's *Recollections and Private Memoirs of Washington*, p. 445.